

Ex-Minister backs

Guardian

2/4/70

Greek resistance

A leading Greek democratic politician said yesterday that he was one of the founder-members of Democratic Defence, the resistance movement of which 34 alleged members are now on trial in Athens.

He is Mr George Mylonas, a Centre Union MP and Minister of Education and Minister to the Prime Minister before the colonels' coup, who escaped from exile on an Aegean island by cabin cruiser in October. Yesterday he sent a message of support and encouragement from Washington "to the Greek patriots being tried who, with the distinguished General Jordanides at their head, have suffered and offered so much in defence of the liberty of the Greek people."

Mr Mylonas's declaration reinforces the point which the junta is anxious to deny—that "respectable" people and men of standing support the resist-

By CAMPBELL PAGE

ance. Mr Mylonas has a high reputation for intelligence and moderation.

His message says: "The tyrants' accusation is indeed an honour, and it must fill you with pride. That same honour and pride I share with you and those worthy fighters already imprisoned, because together we founded in May, 1967, Democratic Defence, our indomitable resistance organisation which fights inside and outside Greece for the overthrow of the dictatorship, which is universally detested by the Greek people.

Democracy

"The junta will, of course, condemn you, but our fight will surely succeed. And the Greek people, in defiance of their tyrants, will create a real democracy, one which no longer engenders colonels but which will be freed from the organic weaknesses of the past. The new Greek democracy, based on true human values and on the doctrine of popular sovereignty, will secure for Greece national independence, social justice, and intellectual and cultural progress.

"It is my hope and my belief that the men who have sprung up within the resistance will play an outstanding rôle in the reconstruction of the new Greece, and will prove to be the guarantors of the genuine democratic course of the nation."

The leaders of Democratic

Defence yesterday released a statement explaining the organisation's aims just as the Athens trial is clearly establishing itself as one of the major political events in Greece since the coup.

Democratic Defence, it says, was founded immediately after the coup by intellectuals, civil servants, trade unionists, students, and officers dedicated to democratic principles. By committing themselves to resistance, they upheld the best revolutionary and democratic traditions of the Greek people. The organisation's aims are:

- (1) The overthrow of the military dictatorship;
- (2) No return to the predictatorial regime and no acceptance of compromise solutions;
- (3) The elimination of the mechanisms and institutions that brought the dictatorship to power;
- (4) True national independence;
- (5) Flowing from this, real social and economic development;
- (6) The belief that "after the dictatorship's overthrow, the country should be governed by political forces that will have sprung from the resistance."

The declaration concludes: "And to this end we need to establish a strong resistance and political movement that will forge the unity of the Greek people from day to day, over and beyond the difference that may arise between the various strata of society and that will successfully oppose the tyranny of the few with the power of the many."

nt
ost
on
nd
urt